

## LOOKING BACKWARD

By CAPT. J. WALTER MITCHELL.

"Buzzards' Roost" and the lively doings of the buzzards were recalled to my memory by a veteran policeman who figured in some of the raids on the grim old building of long ago. In the same letter the venerable guardian of the peace suggests that the inelegant name of Louse alley be brought up to date by changing it to "Cootie court." He says the objectionable cognomen was bestowed upon the South Washington byway during the civil war when it was infested by deserters from the army, bounty jumpers, criminals, dissolute women and great numbers of the vermin after which it was named. He believes the ending of the world war is the psychological time for changing the name of the alley which connects at its western extremity to "Boothleg avenue."

"Buzzards' Roost" was a five-story structure of ancient design and stood on the northeast corner of Ninth and D streets northwest. The site is now occupied by five one-story business buildings. The original structure was erected, I am informed, about 1830. At the beginning of the civil war it was converted into a hotel, and was largely patronized by army officers and their families. Gen. Philip Sheridan, on one of his hurried trips to Washington to consult with the Secretary of War and President Lincoln, was a guest of the old hostelry. After the war the building degenerated and was used as an apartment house or tenement and people of all sorts occupied the upper rooms.

My attention was first attracted to the place in 1882, when a woman who occupied rooms on the second floor came down to the sidewalk very lightly clad and proceeded to entertain the loiterers about the "Roost" with a sort of skirt dance. As she strutted over the bricks in an indecently lewd manner, a policeman, who was standing nearby, called out a song which began something like this:

"I'm Jennie Warren of Buzzards' Roost."

"I've had you all to know: Now watch my dance and hear my song. Then hear the buzzards crow."

Later, after I became a member of the editorial staff of the Evening Critic, then published on Ninth street, a few doors north of "Buzzards' Roost," I had opportunities to get a more intimate knowledge of the old building and its variegated occupants. The police of the First precinct made many arrests in the structure, and it also was the scene of several big police raids.

One of the most important descents made upon the "Roost" by officers of the law was about thirty years ago. At that time "bucket shops" and establishments of bogus stockbrokers flourished here, and the police entered upon a crusade to "clean them up."

The raid was a big one, and the police, who were located on E street just west of the National Theater. The rooms were de luxe in appointments and furniture, and a large sign board advertised "bucket shops" and "stock exchange." There were many patrons of this bogus company, and they invested much money. The "bucket" was to be in immediately touch with big operators in New York, ticked merrily day and night. The place eventually came under the suspicions of the police and an investigation was inaugurated by headquarters. After some shrewd work the detectives and uniformed men discovered that the wires attached to the "tickers" and telegraph instruments did not connect with New York, but with a cleverly camouflaged terminal office in "Buzzards' Roost."

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OPIUM JOINT WAS UNDER THE SIDEWALK HERE.

In the smaller two-story building to the left was a Chinese drug store, employed to camouflage the entrance to an underground resort, where the patrons "hit the pipe" or engaged in Oriental forms of gambling. The large structure on the corner was a civil war hotel and later a cheap apartment house.

liceman Newkirk was, for many years, the terror of the tramps and idlers who made the Bowery their stamping ground.

On the south side of the Bowery about twenty years ago several Chinese opium joints flourished. In company with a policeman I went through two of these places. One was located in the building next to the corner of Fourth and a-half street, at that time occupied ostensibly as a Chinese drug store. The business place was clearly a camouflage of the unlawful operations in the dimly lighted apartments below, formerly the cellar. In jars on the shelves of the so-called drug store were dried toads, horrible looking reptiles resembling miniature dragons, snakes, bats, and other things which suggested voodooism instead of the administration and practice of medicine.

After a short conversation between the policeman and an elderly Chinaman, evidently the proprietor, the officer quickly led the way to a hidden door just in rear of the front room. Three sharp raps caused the door to be opened by an emaciated Chinaman. The policeman forced his way past the guard, who was inclined to resist our entrance to the place of mystery below, and we descended a precipitous flight of stairs.

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## MAKES APPEAL TO BUY U. S. S.

District Urged to Subscribe Quota for Year by Callahan.

Washington must invest heavily in war savings and thrift stamps during the next thirty days if the city is to fill its assigned quota for the year, D. J. Callahan, director of the District committee, announced last night. Although it was thought at the close of the intensive drive held in June, that the city would go over the war savings total within a short time, but further indications point otherwise unless an unusual effort is put forth.

Many Forget Pledges.

In many cases, Director Callahan stated, signed pledges, made during the June drive, have been neglected either through forgetfulness or "influence" and others. The feeling that the war is practically over has been also responsible for the laxity of interest in the stamps through which the city is expected to raise approximately \$2,000,000.

"I am confident, however," Mr. Callahan said yesterday, "that there is too much civic pride in the National Capital to let the city lag behind in this important measure. The war is over, but the expenses of the government are not over by any means, and we who have subscribed so liberally to the several liberty loans, the Red Cross and the United War Work drive must exert ourselves to make the war savings stamps drive in the city a complete success."

## ELECTRIC UNION DELAYS STRIKE

Decision on Question of Walkout to Be Made Thursday.

Decision to strike or not to strike was postponed by the local electricians' union last night at a mass meeting at Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest. The men are to go to work as usual on Monday, according to the announcement of the officials, although the time limit of December 1 was set on their demand for higher wages ten days ago. Announcement of their future action will be made at the regular meeting next Thursday. The men receive 75 cents per hour and ask for \$1 per hour.

Will Affect Government.

The electricians after a brief open meeting last night, in which an animated discussion took place, went into executive session. All traveling members, those who do not belong to the local union, but have cards elsewhere, were put out of the hall. These men number several hundred in Washington and are directly bound by the actions of the local union. Secretary of the local union declared that they were not in favor of compromise.

In case of a strike of electricians all new government operations, such as the United States place, dormitories, the Walter Reed Hospital and all buildings not in the permanent list of government projects will be affected.

It is understood that the Painters' Union has decided on a general strike throughout the city. A mass meeting at Four-and-a-half street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest, this afternoon at 2 o'clock will make final arrangements for a general walk-out on tomorrow morning.

The representatives of the painters spent yesterday urging the co-operation of the paperhangers and allied unions in gaining \$1 an hour for such labor.

The paperhangers announced that on such government projects as the Union Station Plaza, the paperhangers and the allied trades would go on a sympathy strike. They would not strike generally throughout the city, however, they said.

No decision in the case of the plasterers and cement workers who struck early last week, has been reached. The only meeting that the men have had was held yesterday, at headquarters of the Bricklayers' and Plasterers' Union, which is in charge of the mediation.

The decision on this matter, according to members of the union, rests squarely with the government, as the extra money must come out of government funds. The contracts were let at the price now prevalent. At headquarters of the Bricklayers' and Plasterers' Union, it was announced yesterday that no strike was imminent.

The carpenters of the city also announced yesterday that they did not intend to strike. The officials of the Plumbers' Union also declared that they were not going on a strike. They are demanding \$1.25 per hour, however.

## CHAPEL HAS BIRTHDAY.

The Chapel of the Nativity, Massachusetts avenue and A street southeast, will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary today. For five years the congregation was in rented rooms at Seventeenth and East Capitol streets, until ground was broken at its present location. A bazaar has been arranged for Wednesday and Thursday.

Brady, then news editor of the Critic, went to Godfrey's after midnight for his late meal.

"Anything new and novel on your menu tonight?" Capt. Brady asked. "Yes, I've invented a dish especially for you and I want you to try it out and recommend it to the boys on Newspaper Row," Charley replied.

After Capt. Brady had taken his seat the waiter placed before him a dish surrounded by a cloud of fragrant steam. The Captain partook heartily of the unidentified portion and smiling broadly said:

"Charley, that was fine. May I ask what it was?" "Eels—eel balls," Godfrey replied briskly.

"Damn it I never liked eels and yowed I would never eat any," exclaimed the Captain. "But those eel balls were just bully, Charley. Give me another helping."

And so, Godfrey's eel balls became the piece de resistance at many a midnight feast of the men of Newspaper Row, and Godfrey always declared:

EVERETT TRUE

BY COND



## Xmas Gifts Sent Home By Yanks Burden Mails

Yuletide Remembrances Received Here by Relatives, Friends and Sweethearts of Soldiers Overseas Include Everything from Hun Helmets to French Perfumes and Lingerie.

The loyalty of the American soldier to the home folks is shown in the large number of Christmas packages that are being received at the postoffice from members of the American Expeditionary Forces.

They come addressed to mother, wife, sweetheart, father and friend and in almost every instance, buried in the package, is a card on which is written a Christmas greeting that tells of the devotion of the absent soldier.

All packages, except those from the battlefield that are plainly war trophies and have no commercial value, are inspected by the customs department of the port of Washington. These gifts have been arriving since November 1, so that every available man has been detailed for the work. John D. C. Koogle, deputy collector at the port of Washington, is in charge of the customs division of the City Post Office. He is assisted by Leo Gertman, deputy collector, and J. E. Nyman, deputy collector.

"All appraisals," Mr. Koogle said yesterday, "are made on a pre-war wholesale basis and not on the arbitrary cost of the articles which the American soldier in France has been forced to pay for the token he sends home. It has been found that exorbitant prices have been charged the soldiers for perfume, which is a favorite perfume that he could buy in this country at half the cost. If possible, we underrate the value of the soldier's gift, so that he may have the benefit of any doubt."

Approximately 45 per cent of the packages received from American Expeditionary Headquarters are considered of non-commercial value and are registered without duty. The other 55 per cent are classified under three heads—ordinary postal packages, parcel post and registered packages.

Packages in all three divisions of these classifications must be opened separately, their value appraised, slips of the customs charges made, office records kept, the parcels rewrapped and the label pasted on the bundle. There is work in the department now for three days in advance with the force working from 9 o'clock in the morning to 10:30 in the evening.

The American soldier has been ingeniously using the useful gifts he has manufactured from the salvage of a battle. He has used the empty machine gun shells as handles for all sorts of toilet articles, from a nail file to a shoe horn. The other day a shell

from a big gun that had been converted into an artistic vase was unwrapped.

But the trophies that the American soldier has taken personally from the Hun, his helmet, with its brass embossed inscription, "In true faith," and his comfort kit with the belt buckle that reads, "Gott mit uns," are the great favorites to be sent to the home folks. Many elaborated German crosses have been redecorated with keen pleasure by the American soldier.

Approximately 60 per cent of the pieces inspected are lace, lace trimmed articles and embroidery. A large quantity of convent-made French embroidered lingerie is sent over. Fifteen per cent of the packages contain jewelry and an additional 5 per cent wrist watches. Twenty per cent contain miscellaneous articles, including a large quantity of French perfume, headed bags and leather. Enclosed in these are often booklets showing the cities and historical places the soldier has visited.

Many of the packages are filled with gifts which the French families have given the American soldier who has been their guest. These are often French dolls for the children in distant America, also articles of silver plate. The parcel post packages contain gifts from the Paris stores for which orders have been left by soldiers on furloughs. These are often expensive and elaborate.

Among them are much of the German loot, such as curtains, portieres and wall decorations which the American soldier has found in the enemy's trenches. There are at present 5,000 pieces of registered mail which P. O. Otterback, who is in charge of the registered mail, will appraise this week. These packages, many of which are small, contain expensive bits of jewelry.

Hot House Men Rejoice Ban on Fuel Is Lifted

Restrictions curtailing the consumption of fuel by florists and manufacturers of window glass, chry products and cement have been removed by the Fuel Administration, according to an announcement made last night.

The order permitting these four industries to resume their pre-war status, so far as the burning of coal and other fuels are concerned, becomes effective December 2.

Water Street in Hamburg

Water streets are typical of Hamburg, Germany's great port and such scenes as this are found throughout the city. It was here that the revolution was first felt in Germany.

## HUGHES WARNS OF LABOR PANIC

Declares Action Must Be Taken at Once to Avert Trouble.

New York, Nov. 30.—A warning that the United States is facing serious labor conditions and that every effort should be made at once to meet them was voiced here tonight by Charles E. Hughes in an address before the Institute of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University.

The former United States Supreme Court justice said opposition to the right of collective bargaining on the part of employers is futile. In taking a stand against the continuation of government ownership he declared:

"It is regrettable but it is true that government enterprise tends constantly to inefficiency."

Continuing, he said it would be unsafe to take the experience of the last year as a guide as the splendid stimulus of the war spirit put the nation at its best.

"I do not mean to imply," he said, "that the record of private enterprise is an agreeable one, but on a fair examination of conditions where government management has been maintained I believe that from the standpoint of efficiency the comparison favors private enterprises, and that in this country we cannot afford to ignore the fact that inefficiency in the blight upon our public undertakings."

In speaking of labor conditions, Mr. Hughes said:

"The indications are that we are facing serious labor conditions. It has seemed to me that at this time it would be well to have a quick survey of all the important public work in the various States and municipalities which has been held up during the war, and that intelligent effort should be made to set it going as rapidly as possible to take up the labor slack. The question of the distribution of labor and the prevention of unemployment needs at this time the most expert attention."

"What's the use of having grand opera singers in the movies? Their glorious voices are lost on the public. 'I'll let you in on a professional secret.' 'Well,' the stage is full of grand opera singers who think they can act."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

## S. S. S. GIVES KNOCK-OUT BLOW TO RHEUMATISM

Proves Itself Master of This Painful Disease.

Half-way treatment of Rheumatism will never rid you of it. Better realize from the outset that when Rheumatism attacks you, you have a real battle on your hands, and that it's a man's job to get rid of it.

Temporizing with Rheumatism by the use of liniments, lotions and other external methods of treatment, is like trying to coax an enemy to let up in his attacks, and permit you to conquer him without resistance.

But you soon learn that Rheumatism will not treat you with this consideration. The tiny little germs flock together by the millions and center their attack with undivided force. The effects of the disease are gradual in taking hold on the system. In fact, the pains are only slight at first and do not attract your serious attention, but they gradually increase in severity until your entire system is firmly within the grip of the disease. It is then that you have a real fight on your hands, for you will find that Rheumatism is a foe that knows just how to cripple you. The pains that were hardly noticeable at first become your constant companions and seem to take delight in your suffering.

Of course, if this painful disease was on the surface only, you might reasonably expect to get relief by the use of surface remedies, such as liniments and other local applications. But the source of the disease is your blood. The tiny disease germs find lodgment there and multiply by the millions.

Many letters have been written to us by those who have used S. S. S., telling of the good it has done them. Their statements will be helpful to many others who suffer, and we will be glad to send you some of these testimonials, full of this direct evidence of the value of S. S. S.

We maintain a medical department for the benefit of all who are afflicted, and our Chief Medical Adviser, who is familiar with all forms of Rheumatism, will gladly give you advice without charge as to the treatment of your own case.

Write today to Swift Specific Co., 97 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga.—Adv.

Used Things Have A MONEY-VALUE

Furniture, office appliances, musical instruments, art objects, second-hand automobiles—anything which is still useful—may be sold for a fair cash price THROUGH CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING.

To "hoard" useful things, which you no longer need, is to deprive yourself of a source of revenue. It's not a good time to do that!

## Fills Stomach With New Energy

Weak, Worn Out, Gassy, Sour Stomach Revived and Made to Enjoy Food with Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Most of us eat three times a day and often forget that each meal should be disposed of in the stomach to make room for the next. The failure of the stomach to do this is called indigestion or dyspepsia, with its sour, flatulency, gas, rumblings, pain, depression and the feeling of stiffness when breathing is difficult.

The most effective remedy and the most reliable one, because you can get it at any drug store in the United States or Canada, is Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, at 50 cents a box. Instead of depriving yourself of food or going on a starvation diet, simply "step on" as you have and let these tablets straighten out your stomach, digest the food and keep you in the fight—Adv.

## PRIVATE H. C. JONES REPORTED WOUNDED

District Soldier Formerly Listed Missing in Action.

Private Henry C. Jones, native of Culpeper, Va., son of Mrs. Fannie L. Jones, 1009 Virginia avenue southwest, is wounded in action, according to the latest War Department casualty list, correcting a previous report that Jones was missing in action.

Mrs. Jones spent a month of suspense after hearing that her son was reported missing, until a letter from a nurse in a base hospital in France, assured her that Henry C. Jones, who had been wounded in the left leg and the right arm on July 15, was under her charge in the hospital. A letter from Private Jones, which arrived yesterday, told Mrs. Jones that he was doing nicely and was able to be around and help nurse those who were worse off than himself.

Private Jones was employed as a tool dresser on the Standard oil fields in Oklahoma for 17 years previous to his enlistment. He is 30 years old. His mother has been living with a married daughter at 1009 Virginia avenue southwest for the past year, so when Jones was drafted and went to Camp Travis, Tex., he gave her Washington address as his emergency address.